



**Health Services**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Los Angeles County  
Board of Supervisors**

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

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**Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.**  
Director

**Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.**  
Chief Medical Officer

**Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.**  
Deputy Director, Strategic Planning

313 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 912  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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[www.dhs.lacounty.gov](http://www.dhs.lacounty.gov)

*To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.*



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January 4, 2013

**TO:** Each Supervisor

**FROM:** Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.  
Director

**SUBJECT:** **STATUS UPDATE OF X-RAY AND METAL DETECTION EQUIPMENT REMOVAL**

In November, I sent the attached memo advising the Board of our intent to expand the pilot project to remove metal detection equipment from all non-Emergency Room locations at Department of Health Services (DHS) facilities. This change is to make the facilities more patient friendly, through less intrusive means of maintaining reasonable and appropriate security for both the public we serve and our workforce members. This report provides an overview of current status of plans to roll out the changes. DHS staff have been working closely with the Sheriff's Department to plan appropriately for the transition. We are also sensitive to concerns raised by recent high-profile events such as the tragedy in Connecticut, and will be responsive to any questions from our staff or patients.

- a) Olive View-UCLA Medical Center (OV-UCLA) and H. Claude Hudson Comprehensive Health Center (Hudson) have been selected to expand on the positive results from our initial pilot project conducted at the LAC+USC Medical Center Outpatient Department building.
  - a. DHS facility administrators and Sheriff's Department representatives conducted a facility walkthrough last month;
  - b. The facilities will modify existing security policy statement(s) and security staff posting orders;
  - c. Facility management/staff bulletin(s) will be developed and administrators and Sheriff's representatives will conduct education rounds to prepare staff for the planned changes; and
  - d. An evaluation for the need for any additional less-intrusive equipment would be made.

- b) The OV-UCLA and Hudson changes were planned to be implemented by January 1, 2013 and all other DHS facilities would follow suit by June 30, 2013.
- c) OV-UCLA has requested additional time to carry out the above steps by February 1, 2013. In addition, both OV-UCLA administrators and the Sheriff's representatives have recommended removal of the existing metal detection equipment from the emergency room's main entrance, as the metal detectors could be avoided by visitors entering the area from other entry points from the hospital.
- d) Hudson will follow a similar process and timing as OV-UCLA.

I would like to thank you for your continuing support as we proceed with this component of our plans to ready the Department for health care reform. If you have any questions concerning this process, please call me or Gregory Polk, DHS Administrative Deputy, at (213) 240-8124.

MHK:db

Attachment

- c: Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
Commander Ronene Anda, Sheriff's Department





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November 29, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.  
Director

SUBJECT: **X-RAY AND METAL DETECTION EQUIPMENT REMOVAL**

Our Department recently completed a three month pilot project at LAC+USC's Outpatient Department (OPD) which involved the removal of the x-ray and metal detector equipment at entrances. The contract security guards previously assigned to operate this equipment were redeployed to walk the halls of the OPD to maintain an appropriate level of security.

Removing the detectors is intended to convey a more patient-friendly atmosphere to the public in the patient care setting. At the same time, this change is part of our patient retention strategy as we transform from a safety net provider system with unlimited demand for services, to a more efficient system vying for newly insured patients in a highly competitive marketplace under health care reform.

We coordinated the pilot with the Sheriff's Department (SD) and had also apprised employee representatives. The pilot was successfully completed and we did not note any significant security-related issues which would warrant a return to past practices.

As a result, we plan to expand the changes to other facilities throughout our health care system, and will remove the x-ray and metal detector equipment at entrances to the Hudson Comprehensive Health Center, and at all non-emergency room entrances at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center by January 1, 2013. Based on continued successful outcomes at these sites, we plan to roll out the changes at all other locations by July 1, 2013, and will keep your Board apprised as part of our monthly status updates of the County's efforts to implement the Affordable Health Care Act.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or your staff may call Gregory Polk, Administrative Deputy at (213) 240-8124.

MHK:st

c: Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
Captain Charles Stringham, LAC Sheriffs Department